



Community
Alliance with
Family
Farmers
Foundation

July 8, 1996

Dear Fellow BDAC Member:

Now that CalFed has narrowed its scope to three alternatives, it is time to start analyzing how the proposed solutions may affect California communities. Land retirement or conversion, flooding of Delta islands, and the promotion of water marketing are all central components of the solutions that could have profound impacts in rural agricultural areas. In examining these components, CalFed needs to incorporate ways to overcome or at least mitigate potential adverse impacts resulting from them.

To assist BDAC members in understanding how rural communities could be impacted by these changes, we have enclosed a copy of the report **93640 at Risk: Farmers, Workers and Townspeople in an Era of Water Scarcity** by Don Villarejo of the California Institute for Rural Studies. This study, which was funded by CAFF's Rural Water Impact Network through a Ford Foundation grant, analyzes the economic, agricultural and social impacts of the 1987-92 drought on the community of Mendota. It documents the unemployment, business closures, farm failures and declines in land values and local tax revenues among other problems that beset the community during a period of water scarcity and reduced crop production. The study also make the unexpected finding that reduced water allocations do not necessarily shift production to "high-value" crops- quite the opposite occurred in Mendota, where high value crops such as vegetables experienced the largest reductions.

93640 at Risk demonstrates that we cannot take the survival of rural communities and the well-being of their residents for granted. As CalFed studies the options for a solution package to Bay-Delta issues, we must incorporate the needs of the scores of agricultural communities that could potentially be impacted. This is the only way we will be able to apply CalFed's solution principle: *No significant redirected impacts*.

Sincerely,

Judith Redmond)
(AA)

Judith Redmond
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